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WILDER AND GAGE'S ANATOMICAL TECHNOLOGY AS APPLIED TO THE DOMESTIC CAT.<sup>1</sup>—The authors' evident purpose in preparing this work has been to acquaint the beginner in anatomy with the instruments and other material necessary for use in dissecting, the methods of dissecting, and finally a full description of the most important parts of the cat, including the skeleton, the muscles of the shoulder and arm, the more important viscera, the vascular system, the nervous system in general, but especially the brain. It is apparently not intended to be a contribution to the general and comparative anatomy of the cat, as it is not exhaustive of the anatomy of a single cat. Hence it would not be fair to compare it with Mivart's excellent work on the cat in all its relations, anatomical, morphological, psychological, biological, and palæontological. The work is for use in the dissecting room, to be handled and conned over with scalpel and forceps in hand. As such it seems to us to be very well adapted to its purpose, but for this reason a good deal of matter which appears in the early part of the book seems to us, as will be seen further on, to be somewhat in the student's way and out of place. The introduction is a singular *melange*, five pages being devoted to an excursus on the metric system. Under the head of terminology are several pages of irrelevant and whimsical matter, including correspondence and quotations, with seven pages wasted on "The slip system of notes," which seem to us quite out of place. The introduction exhibits a singular lack of perspective; it ends with a page and a half of aphorisms, a strange jumble of anatomical proverbs, which the author has picked up from authors of all grades, from Joseph Henry and Owen to Philip G. Hamerton. This introduction, if boiled down and digested into a plain succinct explanation of terms to be used in the body of the work, would have been much more convenient to the beginner.

The authors have attempted a reform in terminology, and a reform is needed. Thirty-four pages are devoted to a discussion of this reform, but a good deal of the matter, it seems to us, might have been omitted in the present book; the discussion is too rambling for a laboratory guide-book, yet the suggestions are in some cases excellent. The terms *meson* and *mesal*, *ectad* and *entad*, *dorsad* and *ventrad*, and the compounds on p. 32 are useful adverbs, but we should hesitate before using the terms *dorsiduct*, *dorsicumbent*, *latericumbent*, *cephaloduct*, *dextriflexion*, or *sinistreflexion*, or even *caudiduct*. On the rare occasions when a grown-up man has occasion to pull a cat's tail, we should say so in so many Saxon words. The term transection for transverse section, and hemisection for longitudinal section, are good innovations.

<sup>1</sup> *Anatomical Technology as applied to the domestic Cat*. An introduction to human, veterinary, and comparative anatomy, with illustrations. By BURT G. WILDER and SIMON H. GAGE. New York and Chicago, 1882, A. S. Barnes & Co. 8vo, pp. 375.

We then come to the anatomical *technique*, or technology, to which ninety pages are devoted. The instructions, descriptions of instruments and apparatus are minute and exhaustive, ranging from a description of injecting syringes and anæsthetic box down to that of the waste pail, the bottle brush, and killing fleas. The descriptions are indeed so circumstantial that a fool may not err therein. On p. 79 we are told how cats may be caught, and a cat net and bag attached like a net to a hoop and pole, are suggested when the cat can't be inveigled by moral or manual suasion.

Chapter second begins with a general description of the skeleton, when the authors suddenly break off to discuss abdominal landmarks and abdominal and thoracic transection, and then follows a long chapter (the third) on the preparation of bones, and the details of preparation and arrangement of anatomical specimens in the museum. The student is finally, in chapter fifth, brought back to the study of the skeleton bones.

The directions for dissecting the muscles, viscera and nervous systems, and their description, are clear and sufficiently circumstantial. A good deal of space is given to the brain. An appendix contains valuable hints, mostly relating to anatomical technology, including the method of pithing a frog.

The illustrations are an important feature of the book. They are usually well, though not elegantly, drawn, and the several bones, muscles, and viscera are distinctly lettered, though the lettering is rather clumsy.

By leaving out certain portions (including the three sets of aphorisms), some twenty or thirty pages might have been saved, and the cat's hindquarters and other parts described, and the two sets of limbs compared, to the student's advantage.

While it must seem to the beginner, who has this book before him, a very formidable and solemn matter to dissect a cat, yet the work has been so conscientiously prepared that it will be very useful to the teacher as well as the student, and now that Tulk and Henfrey's *Anatomical Manipulation* (a work, by the way, not mentioned by the authors) is out of print, this is the only handbook of the kind in the language.

#### RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

*Stearns, Winfrid A., edited by Coues, Elliott.*—New England Bird Life, being a manual of New England Ornithology. Part II. Non-oscine Passeres, birds of prey, game and water Birds. Boston, Lee & Shepard, 1883. From the author.

*Gaudry, Albert.*—Les enchainement du Monde Animal dans les temps géologiques. Fossiles primaires. Paris; Librairie F. Savy, 1883. From the author.

*Frazer, Persifor.*—Notes from the literature on the Geology of Egypt, and examination of the syenitic granite of the obelisk which Lieut.-Commander Goringe, U.S.N., brought to New York. Ext. Trans. Amer. Inst. Ming. Eng. 1883. From the author.

—The iron ores of the Middle James river. Ext. idem. read 1881. From the author.

*Hill, Albert C.*—Management of structural steel. Ext. Trans. Amer. Inst. Ming. Eng. 1883. From the author.